



Southeast Perspective

a publication of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ

Clergy Alerts New Resource for More Vibrant Churches

The Atlanta unit of Church Women United hosts a celebration of World Community Day, 6:30pm on Nov 6, Peachtree Road Methodist. Call 404/622 2235 for details and reservations.



Join the UCC and over 1,000 organizations working to eliminate the use of **landmines** — copy (on card stock) the enclosed postcard and ask your congregation to mail the cards, urging President Clinton to sign the Treaty to Ban Landmines at the world leaders' Ottawa meeting in December. For more information, call Joyce Myers-Brown: 404/876 2421.



Seminar and workshop registration information available from the Conference office —

- Two "transition and survival skills training experiences" from Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta: *When the Honeymoon is Over: 18 Months into the Ministry*, Nov 17-19; *Exploring the Dynamics in the First Five Years of Ministry*, Dec 8-9. Call CTS Continuing Education: 404/687 4562
- *Consultation XXIII on Parish Ministry*, to be held in Miami Beach Jan 5-9, 1998. This year's theme: *Finding Your Way — The Pastor as Artist*.
- A Saturday retreat, *Listening to Ourselves with Skill and Compassion*, led by Rev. Ron Vinson at Holy Trinity Parish in Decatur GA, from 10am-4pm on Jan 10.
- The 23rd North American Conference on Christian Philanthropy, *Sacred Trust: Generations, Generosity, Values and Vision*, will run Feb 9-11 in Orlando, with keynoter James Forbes.
- *Evangelism Connections '98*, jointly sponsored by seven mainline denominations, will be held in Atlanta, April 17-18
- *Revisiting Your Call After Three Years in Ministry*, at Columbia Theological Seminary, May 4-8



Also available from the Conference office —

- Updates from the office of UCC President Paul Sherry on "the significant ecumenical achievements of the summer."
- Information and liturgy for the celebration of the reconciliation of ordained ministries of the UCC and Disciples of Christ



Has your church ordered materials for the December **Christmas Fund** offering? The Fund helps support retired Veterans of the Cross and their surviving spouses with pension supplements, health plan subsidies, and other benefits.

Do you have an idea for a new church program, but cannot find the resources, funding or people to make the idea become reality? If your answer is "yes," the COVENANT FOR GROWTH & RENEWAL can help your congregation identify the need for the program, locate the essential resources and develop a plan to put great ideas into action

Fred Coulter, Conference Associate for Congregational Renewal and Development, has created this new resource in time for its introduction to pastors at November Clergy Cluster meetings.

COVENANT FOR GROWTH & RENEWAL can help churches identify areas of congregational life they want to enhance, including

- worship
- spiritual development
- music
- mission interpretation and development
- Christian education
- community building
- stewardship
- youth ministry
- UCC identity
- church administration
- property management
- church facility construction, renovation or expansion

A step-by-step process, outlined in the COVENANT FOR GROWTH & RENEWAL booklet, first guides church leaders in reflecting on the congregation's history, its present situation and its potential. The program then helps leaders prioritize areas of development and renewal, and specifically name the vision that emerges from this process. Fred Coulter is available to help congregations determine ways to make their idea a reality, through linking the congregation with the appropriate people, materials and/or funding.

Conceived by Fred Coulter in conjunction with Conference Minister Tim Downs, COVENANT FOR GROWTH & RENEWAL also uses the talents of Conference Associates Joyce Hollyday and Dick Sales. This team approach to helping congregations grew out of the Conference Staff's realization that within the membership of Southeast congregations lies a wealth of resources waiting to be tapped. COVENANT FOR

GROWTH & RENEWAL seeks to link churches, individuals and resources together in a covenant of commitment. The collaborative effort intended by COVENANT FOR GROWTH & RENEWAL gives congregations guidance, without making them dependent on Conference staff for program implementation.

Fred looks forward to working with congregations interested in exploring COVENANT FOR GROWTH & RENEWAL. The Clergy Cluster meetings will give pastors an opportunity to learn more about this new resource — and Fred will be pleased to answer individually any questions you might have. Contact him through the conference office: 800/807 1993, extension 201.

Clergy Cluster Meetings...

... give pastors a great chance to connect with others in ministry in their region. *Don't miss this opportunity to network and fellowship with your UCC colleagues.* See the Conference Calendar for meeting details.

What's Inside . . .

- **Conference Clips**
from across the SEC
- **KYP**
United Church of Christ news
- **UCC Resources**
education, stewardship and more
- **OCWM in the SEC**
meet the new Conference staff
- **Stewardship Notes**
on Special and Planned Giving
- **Transitions**
news of the SEC "family"
- **The Conference Calendar**
who's doing what, and when

Transitions

If you have an item to contribute, call the Conference Office at 800/807 1993.

Deaths —

- Rev. Hugh Lasseter, on Oct 11
- George Kohari, father of Marta Morrison and father-in-law of Tim Morrison, Oct 28

Marriages —

- Jennifer Crane to Joe "Pete" Moss, Jr. on Sept 15

Illnesses —

- Howard Easley, son of Alton and Frances Easley of Andalusia, AL, struggling with cancer
- The father of Joyce Hollyday
- Gib Jones, father of Budd Friend-Jones

Recovering —

- Helen Pearson, from hip replacement surgery
- Andrew Frierson, from surgery
- Ed Schneider, from surgery

Transfers of Standing —

- Kallie Stone, from Southwest
- Winthrop Stone, from Southwest
- William Raybert from Penn Northeast

Travelling —

- Fred Coulter, to New Zealand with a group of youth, from mid-December through mid-January

Stewardship Notes

Within and beyond this stewardship and giving season, the UCC Commission on Development offers a variety of services and materials to assist local congregations in identifying and enhancing development opportunities. Earlier this year, Nancy Fogal was named as Director of Special Giving to enhance communication and encourage support of specific giving needs in the UCC's ministries.

Special Giving

By identifying programs and projects that address a wide variety of critical needs in the church and society, Special Giving enables donors to contribute to their particular area of concern in a specific manner. Dollar amounts of projects range from \$1,000 "scholarships" to \$500,000/year programs, both in the U.S. and abroad.

The Commission offers —

- research on ways a giver's interests may be addressed through existing ministries
- exploration of various forms of current and deferred gifts — from one-time outright contributions to life-income gifts and bequests — and gift funding options
- gift record-keeping, reminder notices for pledges over time, year-end statements
- information on tax deductions and tax savings opportunities
- consultation — by phone or in person — with potential donors

Planned Giving

In addition to Special Giving services, the Commission provides —

- explanatory materials on the varieties of Life Income Gifts
- workshops on endowment building, charitable estate planning and other topics
- personalized illustrations of the exact benefits of Life Income gifts (at no cost)
- consultation with donors and their financial and legal advisors
- establishment, administration and management of deferred gifts to simultaneously support a number of charitable beneficiaries

To contact Rev. Fogal, call 216/736 2290. To order brochures, videos and giving materials, call United Church Resources at 800/325 7061.



Bulletin Insert — clip and photocopy

OCWM in the SEC

Meet your Conference Staff team

With a four-year, \$20,000 matching funds grant from the national UCC and funds from our associations, the Southeast Conference has created a staff that brings together a variety of talents and experience into an innovative and far-reaching team. Under the leadership of Conference Minister Tim Downs, this team of three one-third-time Conference Associates and a part-time communications professional will seek to support the churches across the Southeast as they represent the UCC and its mission in their local communities. Thanks to recent upgrades in the Conference telephone and computer facilities, these members of the Conference staff — who live in different regions of the Southeast — can look forward to ongoing and effective connection with all of the churches of our far-flung Conference family.

Rev. Timothy C. Downs, Conference Minister —

A UCC pastor for more than 23 years, Tim came to Atlanta from Pennsylvania. As Conference Minister, he serves as pastor to the Southeast's pastors and leaders, and as coordinator of the many expressions of the UCC in the Southeast.

Rev. Fred W. Coulter, Conference Associate for Congregational Renewal & Development —

A pastor in several UCC churches in New England, Fred is currently working on his PhD in Family Studies at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He will work with congregations as they develop and enhance their work together.

Ms. Joyce C. Hollyday, Conference Associate for Spiritual Development & Community Building —

An author and activist, Joyce brings her first-hand knowledge of community and social justice to her Conference work of renewing congregational scripture study, prayer and theological reflection on our lives together and in the world.

Rev. Richard W. Sales, Conference Associate for Mission Development & UCC Identity —

Having spent 30 years on the mission field in Africa — including years as a founder, instructor and administrator in UCC-affiliated educational institutions — Dick brings a powerful blend of knowledge and mission experience to his role.

Ms. Cheri L. Lovell, Director for Conference Communications —

A freelance marketing consultant and writer, Cheri concentrates her effort on enhancing the communication and connection between churches and individuals across the Conference through newsletters and the Conference website.

Conference Clips

KYP

✓ First Congregational UCC of Birmingham will celebrate its homecoming on November 9. *Congratulations!*

✓ Thanks from Anne Ariail, Conference Disaster Relief Coordinator, to all who worked, prayed, and shared their concern during the Burned Church rebuilding efforts. Pleasant Ridge UCC in Greensboro, NC, is looking forward to its upcoming dedication in late December/early January. The next rebuilding project is slated for the South Georgia/Northern Florida region.

✓ The *Phenix Citizen GoodNews* of Phenix City, AL, recently covered the presentation of a check for \$400 from Russell Woods Congregational Christian Church and its Women's Fellowship, to the Russell County Tri-Aid Child Advocacy Center. The East Alabama/West Georgia Women's Fellowship has been active in its support for Tri-Aid's Battered Women's Shelter, which received a \$2,000 grant from the Coordinating Center for Women in 1994.



Subscriptions & memberships —

- *Prism*, a journal of diverse theological reflection on issues of ministry, faith and mission. Sponsored by UCC seminaries; \$10 for one year
- *Joy in the Word!*, a Confessing Christ newsletter "encouraging serious and faithful theological reflection in the church today." Send a contribution to Confessing Christ, PO Box 435, DeForest, WI 53532-0435
- *Common Lot*, from the UCC Coordinating Center for Women, about women and women's issues. Call 216 736 2150 to join.



OCLL's latest addition to *The Leadership File* provides resources for Special Sundays (including Amistad Sunday), clergy self-care, meeting and worship ideas, and more. Each church received one copy, but additional packets may be obtained (\$5 for each set of file folders) from UC Resources: 800/325 7061.



The UCBHM and Pilgrim Press (Division of Education & Publication) offers a folder full of materials about educational and curriculum resources, which also includes several UCC resource papers. Call UCBHM at 216/736 3782 to order a package.



The Kerygma Program offers Bible study resources for adult audiences, including three year-long Foundational Courses, ten "seme-ster" Elective Studies, as well as short season-specific studies. Used by more than 11,000 congregations from many denominations, the Kerygma materials may be ordered directly: 800/537 9462.



R A liturgical resource is available from the UCC National Committee on Persons with Disabilities, and the Committee offers its assistance to congregations considering disability and accessibility needs. Call Rev. David Denham at 216/736 3277 or 301/416 7199. The affiliated Mental Illness Network (UCC) can be reached at 815/786 6341.



E Global Ministries, a common mission of the UCC and Disciples, provides several resources for churches: brochures on *How to Host a Missionary* and *The Missionary Relationship Program*, as well as a monthly photocopyable bulletin insert. For more info, call the Office for Missionary Relationships: 317/635 3100.



S Need ideas for a Christ-centered holiday this year? The Hunger Action ministry of the UCC offers *Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?*, an Advent/Christmas resource that includes games, stories, lectionary-based reflections, a bibliography and simplifying ideas. 800/821 6153



O Looking to dialogue with others working to rebut the claims of the "religious right"? Check out the website of UCC Rev. James Watkins. Called "Mainstream Opinion," the site's homepage address is www.mainstreamop.org.



U Visit the UCC's homepage at www.ucc.org. And don't forget to add your name and e-mail address to the Conference e-mail directory — just drop a note to Cheri Lovell at clovell@emory.edu.

☞ At an event sponsored by the UCC and National Council of Churches, TV critic and keynote speaker Robert Lissit challenged the nation's network news producers to abandon "body bag journalism," and concentrate on solid reporting on government, education, consumer news, and race relations.

☞ Nearly 30 years ago, the UCC Office of Communication was instrumental in the successful push to establish Equal Employment Opportunity rules for government agencies. Recently, the Office became lead petitioner in a "friend of the court" brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in a case involving two New Jersey teachers vying for the same job.

☞ The UCBHM's American Missionary Association is organizing a network of lawyers to advise conferences and local churches on issues of justice — such as helping a local church that is struggling to interpret the welfare reform bill recently passed by Congress. Interested attorneys should call Rev. Allison Phillips at 216/736 3260.

☞ According to a national study by the Rev. Jane Heckles, Associate Conference Minister for the Southern California Conference, churches who become "Open and Affirming" — affirming gay and lesbian members into the full life of the church — not only increase membership by an average of 19%, they increase giving by 12%! Heckles believes the intense study and dialogue members go through before voting energizes them into a new and more faithful relationship to God. For a seven-session Open and Affirming Study Packet (\$30), call 508/856 9316.

☞ Preparations are under way for the 18th Plenary of the Consultation on Church Union (COCU), to be held Jan 20-24, 1999 in St. Louis, MO. Rather than focusing on approval of a document, the agenda will look to delegates to determine COCU's next steps.

☞ UCBWM released its Quarterly Disaster Report, reviewing work with Bosnia Relief, Landmine Relief, the North Korea Food Crisis, Shoes for Ukraine, and Zaire Refugee Crisis. The Office of Global Sharing of Resources included U.S. disaster relief as well: '97 Midwest/South storms; flooding in the NE, Pacific NW and West Coast; and church rebuilding.

☞ *Making Our Churches Safe for All*, a resource produced by the OCLL, UCBHM and Insurance Board, provides local churches with materials to develop policies to prevent and deal with clergy/leader sexual harassment and abuse. The resource packet was mailed to all UCC churches last winter, and additional copies may be requested from the sponsoring national bodies. On a related note, the Coordinating Center for Women offers a brochure about the UCC Fund for Victims of Sexual Harassment (216/736 2150).

UCC Historical Essay Prize

The Historical Council of the UCC announces the 1997-98 competition for the best essay on some aspect of the history of the UCC and/or any of its antecedent traditions. Essays should be no more than 4,000 words, and must be received by May 1, 1998.

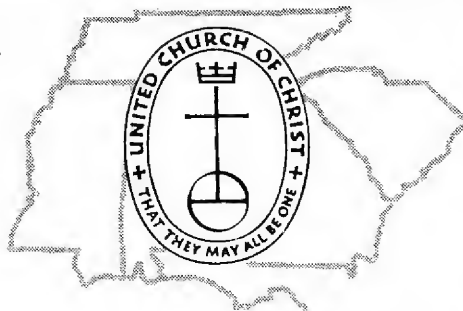
Southeast
Conference
of the UCC
756 W. Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30308

The Conference Calendar

CLERGY CLUSTER MEETINGS

All clergy are invited to these regional gatherings

- **Greater Atlanta — Nov 6**
12-2:30p, First Congregational UCC, Atlanta
- **Tennessee — Nov 13**
10a-3p EST at Pilgrim Congregational,
Chattanooga
- **SC/GA Coast — Nov 18**
5-8p, First Congregational UCC,
Savannah
- **S. Ala/NW Fla — Nov 20**
6:30p CST, Andalusia, Alabama



ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Dec 5-6
EAL/WGA Ministerial Christmas Party

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 14-15

Program Committee Planning Retreat

An important gathering for all members of all Commission Boards and the chairs of all Association committees. At this retreat, mission statements, goals and objectives for 1998-99 will be developed and refined, and we will review the new Covenant for Growth & Renewal. Attendance and participation in this event is essential for all those holding leadership roles in the Conference or their association. Please notify the Conference office if you will be unable to attend.

Jan 9-10

Board of Directors Meeting
at Simpsonwood Retreat Center, Norcross GA

Jan 17-19

Training Workshop — Crisis Response Teams

Led by the Office of Church Life and Leadership, at Simpsonwood Retreat Center, Norcross GA. Call Tim Downs for more information.

To include your meeting in the calendar, send details to the Conference office by the 15th